

DEDICATED TO OUR COMMUNITY, OUR PROFESSION AND EACH OTHER

Winter 2012

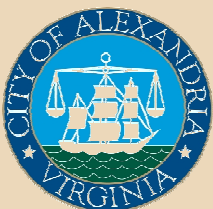


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On the web!
www.alexandriava.gov/fire



THE RESPONDER

Engaging the Community

December 10, 2011 – Numerous fire engines and ladder trucks were seen in the Warwick Village community on Saturday. Over 41 firefighters and medics were in the neighborhood going door to door. With all this activity,

occupants had early warning detection and some basic education on the dangers of Carbon Monoxide.

Saturday's event involved 41 firefighters, medics, fire marshals, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members and Community Services Unit staff. The Fire Department members



Firefighters and CERT members speak with a Warwick Village Resident about Carbon Monoxide and offer to install free CO alarms.

ty, you might think there was a major incident going on. There was. But it wasn't an emergency incident. On Saturday, December 10, members of the Alexandria Fire Department fanned out in force as part of a major community outreach project to educate homeowners in Warwick Village on the dangers of Carbon Monoxide. Several days early, emergency crews responded to several calls for carbon monoxide in the Warwick Village community. In each case they discovered several issues that could have been corrected and the emergency avoided if the

spent eight hours going door to door to over 600 homes in the Warwick Village community. They left information on the dangers of carbon monoxide and safety tips at each home. They inspected homes with Carbon Monoxide detectors and spoke with residents on what they could do to make their home safe from both Carbon Monoxide as well as home fires. In at least 90 homes employees installed Carbon Monoxide and smoke alarms free of charge. In one home, firefighters discovered a malfunctioning gas stove which was emitting elevated levels of Carbon Monoxide.

The stove was shut off and the homeowner was put in contact with a repair company.

The Warwick Village was contacted ahead of time and requested to notify all residents that the Fire Department would be visiting the area on December 10. Mass emails and phone calls were made publicizing the event. Alexandria Fire Department Community Services staff conducted several follow up activities which included speaking at an Association meeting as well as publishing an article in Association's newsletter to reach additional residents who may have missed the outreach event on December 10.

The outreach activity was extremely successful due to the cooperation of both the involved members and the community. Many of the residents now have early warning detection for Carbon Monoxide as well as a heightened awareness as to the dangers associated with this "Silent Killer". The event highlighted the efforts of the Fire Department in addressing community risk reduction. 🚒

He Who Laughs Last....

By Jeff Merryman

Battalion Chief, Health and Safety
Unit

I am not really laughing (well, maybe a little) because it is no laughing matter. Over the past 3.5 years, I have taken some good ole' fashion firehouse Safety Officer "ribbing." Yep, I took it to the ribs over and over again...if I stand in the parking lot; do I need a traffic vest? I am going up a step ladder; do I need

feel about the Safety of those folks working that structure fire or vehicle accident? Not so funny, now!

Some years back (yea, here I go) I was working a fire on Duke Street as an Acting Battalion Chief in the Foxchase complex. The fire was up and over the crews working inside and as the Incident Commander; I had to call for an emergency evacuation. Just as our members exited the building the roof col-

Don't dismiss that I had knowledge of these buildings, building construction, knowledge of what the fire was doing to the building and the help of an excellent Battalion Aide (Lt. Mike Cross) who worked with me for the common goal of the safety of our personnel. We had no choice, safety had to prevail our folks were in danger.

Will our contingent of new officers now make that commitment toward the safety of their crew and themselves? Folks, they have no choice, safety must prevail. Our leaders demand it, and all of you should demand it too.

When the concern for safety in our business falls on the individual, the individual may tend to dismiss it for one reason or another. But when the Safety of the crew falls on the Officer, the Officer cannot and should not dismiss it. We have some great folks taking on some great responsibility and that my friends is no laughing matter.

Stay safe! 🚒

someone to heel the ladder? I just finished physical fitness; should I go to rehab? Don't worry its safe; Merryman is on the scene! I'm sure you all get the message.

Well, look who is stepping into our leadership ranks; all those folks who were delivering those humorous blows. The Officer Class of 2012 is hitting the streets. How will these once, very humorous folks, feel about the responsibility as it relates to the safety of their crew? How will our new Battalion Chiefs

lapsed. I had a very bad sick feeling when that roof came down. It was then that I realized the importance of the great responsibility that was entrusted to me. Those crews working inside were depending on Safety Leadership and thank goodness it happened.



Fire News

Fire crews handled a number of incidents during this quarter. On October 6 around 2:30am firefighters responded to a transformer fire in the 300 block of King Street. Once the fire was extinguished firefighters determined the fire had actually started in some smoldering trash next to the transformer which grew and impacted the unit. The resulting fire interrupted the power supply to a number of homes and businesses in Old Town until the transformer could be replaced later that morning.

On October 19 firefighters responded to 601 Four Mile Road for a report of smoke filling the hallway of a six story residential apartment building. Smoke was mainly concentrated on the 5th and 6th floors. The building was evacuated and crews spent about an hour searching apartments and all other areas for the source. Eventually they found the problem in a concealed space between the 6th floor ceiling and the roof. The cause of the smoldering fire was accidental in nature. The determination and thoroughness of the firefighters led to a successful resolution of the issue with minimal damage to the building. All occupants were permitted to return to their apartments. While they waited outside, a DASH Bus was requested which provided shelter from a light rain and cool autumn temperatures.

On October 24 Alexandria's Hazardous Materials Team along with Arlington County's Hazardous Materials Team responded to assist Prince William County. Arlington and Alexandria teams make up one of several Regional Hazardous Materials Teams in Virginia. The joint team responded at 10:30 pm to Prince William County to assist that Department with leaking Liquid Petroleum tank. The incident was successfully addressed and the

teams returned to the City and Arlington County in the early hours the following morning.

On November 8 at 11:19 am firefighters responded for a report of smoke in the building at 4835 West Brad-dock Road. At that address firefighters discovered a fire in a plumbing chase wall. The fire progressed to the second floor. A second alarm was struck to assist in containing the fire. Fire crews opened several walls and ceilings in order to extinguish the fire.

A plumber who had been sweating a pipe fitting with a torch had ignited material in the pipe chase. He was treated for a minor burn to his hand which he received while attempting to extinguish the fire. Damages were in excess of \$50,000.

On December 3, 2011, at 5:04am Fire and EMS units were dispatched to the 200 block of Burgess Avenue for a report of Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Two adults and one child in a rowhouse were found complaining of symptoms associated with carbon monoxide poisoning. Firefighters checking the adjacent row houses obtained CO readings showing in excess of 60ppm.

The gas service was shut off in two row houses and both dwellings were ventilated. Three patients were transported to Alexandria Hospital. One of the patients was later forwarded on to Mt. Vernon Hospital to be treated in a hyperbaric chamber.

A faulty furnace in one of the row houses was producing CO in excess of 10,000 ppm and the chimney where the products of combustion were exhausted had possible cracks allowing the CO to migrate in the buildings.

On December 13, fire crews responded to 5471 Sheffield Court for a fire in the laundry room. Heavy smoke coming from the three story apartment building led to residents being evacuated as firefighters entered and eventually extinguished a fire in one of the dryers. Damage was confined to the laundry room and residents were able to return home after smoke was cleared from the building.

On December 17, 2011, at 11:40pm firefighters from Alexandria and Fairfax County fire departments responded to 316 Prince Street for a report of flames coming from the roof. Arriving firefighters reported visible fire that was located on the west side of the roof. A quick access to the roof was made via ground ladders from the balconies and aerial ladders from Prince Street. The bulk of the fire was located on the roof and in west parapet wall and was extinguished a short time after the arrival of the fire department.

An investigation of the fire determined that the fire was accidental and was the result of roof repair work earlier in the day.

On December 20 at 4:52pm firefighters responded to a two alarm fire at 609 Yoakum Parkway. An investigation of the fire determined that it started in an in-wall shelving unit one of the apartment building's bedrooms. The cause was deemed accidental. 🚒



EMS News

On August 5, EMS Operations Manager Brian Hricik was notified by the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), Virginia Department of Health, of his appointment by Governor McDonald to the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

ports from the Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC), the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) and Regional EMS councils.

The Advisory Board provides EMS system information to the Governor, state legislators, local officials, and

a Board that through its' actions can have such a positive influence on the lives of all Virginians.

Congratulations go out to Brian Hricik on this significant accomplishment and recognition of his abilities in the field of Emergency Medical Services.

The Advisory Board consists of 28 Governor appointees and include such stakeholder groups as the American Academy of Pediatrics, Virginia Ambulance Association (VAA), American College of Surgeons, Associated Public Safety Communications Officers (APCO), Medical Society of Virginia, eleven Regional EMS Councils, the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO), the Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators (VAGEMSA), the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS), the Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters (VPFF) and many more organizations. The Advisory Board serves as the formal liaison between OEMS and the public. It provides advice and counsel regarding methods and procedures for planning, developing and maintaining a statewide emergency medical services (EMS) system to the OEMS and the State Board of Health (BOH).



EMS Operations Manager Brian Hricik

citizens. They prepare an annual report of activities for submission to OEMS, the State BOH, State Health Commissioner and the Governor. They recommend representatives from the EMS Community for EMS Representatives to the State BOH.

The Advisory Board meets quarterly in Richmond.

The Board reviews and revises the statewide EMS plan; reviews the annual VAVRS report; reviews the status reports regarding the statewide EMS system including re-

It is a great honor to be appointed by the Governor of Virginia to serve on

On October 11 around 6:00pm several EMS units responded into Arlington County to assist the Arlington Fire Department with a mass casualty incident at the Rosslyn Metro Station. The units remained in Arlington for about an hour before returning back to Alexandria.

On November 7 at 7:11pm EMS and Fire units responded to Interstate 395 for a report of a pedestrian struck. Paramedics arriving on the scene found one person deceased. The matter was turned over to the Virginia State Police for investigation.

On December 14 at 11:09am EMS units worked with firefighters at an auto accident at the intersection of Duke Street and Taylor Run Parkway. The accident, involving an overturned vehicle necessitated the extrication of two patients from the car. Eastbound Duke Street had to be closed as a result. Both patients were successfully removed from the vehicle and transported to area hospitals for treatment.

On December 26 shortly before 1:00pm EMS and firefighters worked to remove a person who had fallen down an embankment along Four Mile Run Creek. The patient was eventually removed from the creek using a Reeves stretcher and transported to an area hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

Community Engagement

October was another busy month as fire and EMS crews headed out to elementary schools throughout the City for Fire Prevention Month. Fourth grade students were given instruction in calling 9-1-1, home escape planning, avoidance of playing with matches and lighters, and what to do when the smoke alarm sounds.

Over twenty-two schools were visited by firefighters bringing vital life saving messages to over 2500 students making a dramatic and positive impact in their lives.

In November the Department began distributing free Smoke, Smoke / CO and hearing impaired smoke alarms to City residents free of charge. 1000 alarms of various types were received by the Department from the Institute for Fire Engineers and the Vision 20/20 project as part of an Assistance to Firefighters grant. Alexandria was selected as one of 5 jurisdictions to participate in the grant program which focused on ways to expand community outreach and fire safety programs to the public.

Funding from the grant allowed the hiring of one grant funded employee for six months as well as funding for vehicle wrapping, advertising, Public Educator classes and Community Risk Reduction classes for staff.

Some of the highlights of the program included:

- 8 weeks of advertising in the Alexandria Gazette and Times.
- On December 10th the Department conducted a community wide canvass of the Warwick Village community. Carbon

Monoxide literature was distributed to over six hundred homes. Smoke or CO combination detectors were installed in over one hundred homes free of charge.

- Of those alarms installed at Warwick village, one of the installations alerted occupants to a CO leak a couple of week later.
- The Department conducted a community wide canvass of the Lynhaven community. Carbon Monoxide literature was distributed to over four hundred homes. Alarms were installed in over one hundred homes.

Over 600 alarms were installed throughout the City during the performance period of the grant and alarm installations continue today.

Firefighters Local 2141 Supports Medic

Paramedic Jason Cage returned to City Hall on December 2 where he received a check from Alexandria Firefighters Local 2141 for over \$7000. The money was raised by Local 2141 who sponsored a golf

endured a collapsed lung and a subsequent lung transplant earlier this year at Duke University Medical Center. In March Jason finished his last tour of duty before heading to North Carolina for his transplant. He has missed nine months of work since then due to the transplant. In addition, the expensive procedure had to be paid out of pocket.

Local 2141 saw a need to step in and help so they held a golf tournament earlier this year and raised over \$7000 to help pay Jason's medical bills.

On the morning of December 2 Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Kerry Donley and Acting City Manager Bruce Johnson along with representatives of Burke and Herbert Bank and Local 2141 members gathered in Market Square and presented the check to Jason.

"I've been entirely shocked. It's so humbling in a good way," Cage said.

"We've got each other's back. That's what families and communities are for." Euille said. 🚒

Jason has suffered from the chronic

Jason has suffered from the chronic disease cystic fibrosis. Jason



Welcoming Class 39

As the end of 2011 approached the Alexandria Fire Department prepared to welcome its newest group of firefighter recruits from the 39th Fire Recruit School. Just like the 38th Recruit Class who graduated in 2010, this group of young men and women came from diverse backgrounds to make up a unique group of indi-

viduals who will deal with 21st century issues facing the fire service. made available a large number of row houses to the Fire Department that were slated for demolition. These homes in the 800 block of Alfred Street offered the recruits opportunities to practice their learned skills on actual structures that presented the firefighters with a number of challenges.



Firefighter Recruits prepare to advance a hose line into a smoke filled home while Professional Development staff oversee the exercise.



Firefighter Recruits perform a roof cut to ventilate a townhouse filled with smoke.

To simulate fire conditions the buildings were filled with theatrical smoke from several smoke generators. This non-toxic smoke created real life visibility challenges as firefighters arrived, pulled hose lines, raised ladders and 'extinguished fires' in the structures. The training proved invaluable and

prepared the new recruits for their upcoming assignment in the City's fire stations.

On December 8 the 39th recruit school graduated from the Professional Development Academy and began their career as Firefighter / Rescuers with the Alexandria Fire Department. 🚒

viduals who will deal with 21st century issues facing the fire service.

The variety of training ranged from classroom learning to hands on training in a variety of subjects that included the fundamentals of firefighting; forcible entry; ventilation; roof operations; emergency medical care; apparatus driving and operation; ropes and knots and many other subjects.

Near the completion of their recruit school, these firefighters were offered a unique opportunity to practice their skills on real structures, The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority



Members of the 39th Fire Recruit Class are sworn in by Clerk of the Court Edward Semonian.

Winter 2012 Run Statistics (October through December 2011)

	Unit	EMS	SUP	TOTAL	Current Yr	Previous Yr
Station 201	E201	123	193	316	1376	1350
Station 202	M202	402	98	500	2113	2354
	U202	3	2	5	55	47
Total		405	100	505	2168	2401
Station 203	E203	139	168	307	1178	1278
	T203	29	219	248	1028	1060
Total		168	387	555	2206	2338
Station 204	E204	199	199	398	1529	1434
	T204	67	304	371	1428	1270
Total		266	503	769	2957	2704
Station 205	E205	180	282	462	2087	2097
	M205	529	132	661	2769	3128
Total		709	414	1123	4856	5225
Station 206	E206	187	212	399	1921	2025
	M206	556	124	680	2734	2852
	R206	91	143	234	616	483
Total		834	479	1313	5271	5360
Station 207	E207	243	233	476	2004	2184
	M207	478	111	589	2396	2453
Total		721	344	1065	4400	4637
Station 208	E208	330	361	691	2752	2987
	M208	538	168	706	2817	3029
	T208	76	344	420	1634	1552
Total		944	873	1817	7203	7568
Station 209	E209	149	182	331	1365	1507
	H209	0	16	16	63	54
	S209	8	141	149	526	513
Total		157	339	496	1954	2074
Peak Time Medics	M213	14	2	16	443	0
	M214	196	48	244	576	0
Total		210	50	260	1019	0
Station totals		4461	3338	7799	33410	33,657

The Alexandria Fire Department
Wishes You A Safe and Happy
Holiday Season.

HOT Shots



Here are a few photos of activities at our Fire Station Open Houses held in October during Fire Prevention Week



Above: Engine 201 visits a 4th Grade class in Olde Town and explain how fast a fire grows.

Left: The crew from Boat 201 take new Dispatchers on a tour of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and explain how they pump water up to the roadway.

Right: Santa Claus arrives via Fire Boat 201 to celebrate the Christmas season in Olde Town Alexandria.

